United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (**UNHCR**) is a United Nations agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has 20,305 staff working in 136 countries as of December 2023.[2]

Background

The office of High Commissioner for Refugees has existed since 1921, when it was created by the League of Nations with Norwegian scientist Fridtjof Nansen as its first occupant.[3]

The International Refugee Organization (IRO) was created in 1946 to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II. The United Nations established the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1950 as the successor of the IRO.[3] The 1951 Refugee Convention established the scope and legal framework of the agency's work, which initially focused on Europeans uprooted by the war. Beginning in the late 1950s, displacement caused by other conflicts, from the Hungarian Uprising to the decolonization of Africa and Asia, broadened the scope of UNHCR's operations. Commensurate with the 1967 Protocol to the Refugee Convention, which expanded the geographic and temporal scope of refugee assistance, UNHCR operated across the world, with the bulk of its activities in developing countries.[4] By its 65th anniversary in 2015, the agency had assisted more than 50 million refugees worldwide.

As of June 2020, UNHCR has over 20 million refugees under its mandate.[2] Consequently, its annual budget has grown from US$300,000 in 1951 to US$8.6 billion in 2019, making it one of the largest UN agencies by expenditure.[2][5] The vast majority of UNHCR's budget comes from voluntary contributions, mostly from member states; the largest donors are the United States, the European Union, and Germany.[6] The agency's work includes providing protection, shelter, healthcare and emergency relief, assisting in resettlement and repatriation, and advocating for national and multilateral policies on behalf of refugees.[7]

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	
Abbreviation	UNHCR, HCR
Formation	14 December 1950
Type	United Nations Programme
Legal status	Nonprofit
Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
Head	Filippo Grandi (*High Commissioner for Refugees*)
Parent organization	United Nations General Assembly United Nations Economic and Social Council
Staff	13,354 (2022[1])
Website	unhcr.org (https://www.unhcr.org/)
Politics portal	

In recognition of its work, UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes, in 1954 and 1981, and a Prince of Asturias Awards for International Cooperation in 1991.[8] It is a member of the United Nations Development Group, a consortium of organizations dedicated to sustainable development.[9]

History

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Following the demise of the League of Nations and the creation of the United Nations the international community was acutely aware of the refugee crisis following the end of World War II. In 1947, the International Refugee Organization (IRO) was founded by the United Nations.[10] The IRO was the first international agency to deal comprehensively with all aspects of refugees' lives. Preceding this was the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which was established in 1944 to address the millions of people displaced across Europe as a result of World War II.[10]

In the late 1940s, the IRO fell out of favour, but the UN agreed that a body was required to oversee global refugee issues. Despite many heated debates in the General Assembly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was founded as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly by Resolution 319 (IV) of the United Nations General Assembly of December 1949. However, the organisation was only intended to operate for 3 years, from January 1951, due to the disagreement of many UN member states over the implications of a permanent body.[10]

UNHCR's mandate was originally set out in its statute, annexed to resolution 428 (V) of the United Nations General Assembly of 1950. This mandate has been subsequently broadened by numerous resolutions of the General Assembly and its Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).[10] According to UNHCR, its mandate is to provide, on a non-political and humanitarian basis, international protection to refugees and to seek permanent solutions for them.[10]

Soon after the signing of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, it became clear that refugees were not solely restricted to Europe. In 1956, UNHCR was involved in coordinating the response to the uprising in Hungary. Just a year later, UNHCR was tasked with dealing with Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, while also responding to Algerian refugees who had fled to Morocco and Tunisia in the wake of Algeria's war for independence. The responses marked the beginning of a wider, global mandate in refugee protection and humanitarian assistance.[10]

Decolonisation in the 1960s triggered large refugee movements in Africa, creating a massive challenge that would transform UNHCR; unlike the refugee crises in Europe, there were no durable solutions in Africa, and many refugees who fled one country only found instability in their new country of refuge. By the end of the decade, two-thirds of UNHCR's budget was focused on operations in Africa, and in just one decade, the organization's focus had shifted from an almost exclusive focus on Europe.[10]

In 1967, the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees was ratified to remove the geographical and temporal restrictions of UNHCR under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. As the Convention was confined to the refugee crisis in the aftermath of World War II in Europe, the Protocol was made to address the "new refugee situations that have arisen since the Convention was adopted and the refugees concerned that may therefore not fall within the scope of the Convention".[11]

In the 1970s, UNHCR refugee operations continued to spread around the globe, with the mass exodus of East Pakistanis to India shortly before the birth of Bangladesh. Adding to the woes in Asia was the Vietnam War, with millions fleeing Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.[10] The 1980s saw new challenges for UNHCR, with many member states unwilling to resettle refugees due to the sharp rise in refugee numbers over the 1970s. Often, these refugees were not fleeing wars between states, but inter-ethnic conflict in newly independent states. The targeting of civilians as military strategy added to the displacement in many nations, so even "minor" conflicts could result in a large number of displaced persons.

Whether in Asia, Central America or Africa, these conflicts, fueled by superpower rivalry and aggravated by socio-economic problems within the concerned countries, durable solutions continued to prove a massive challenge for the UNHCR. As a result, the UNHCR became more heavily involved with assistance programs within refugee camps, often located in hostile environments.[10]

The end of the Cold War marked continued inter-ethnic conflict and contributed heavily to refugee flight. In addition, humanitarian intervention by multinational forces became more frequent, and the media began to play a big role, particularly in the lead up to the 1999 NATO mission in FR Yugoslavia, while by contrast, the 1994 Rwandan Genocide had little attention. The genocide in Rwanda caused a massive refugee crisis, again highlighting the difficulties for UNHCR to uphold its mandate, and the UNHCR continued to battle against restrictive refugee policies in so-called "rich" nations.[10]

According to a 2021 study, the UNHCR has fulfilled its mandate to serve refugees independent of their location consistently over time. The organization has shown limited bias towards donors in the geographical distribution of its funds.[12]

Function

UNHCR packages containing tents, tarps, and mosquito netting sit in a field in Dadaab, Kenya, on 11 December 2006, following disastrous flooding

UNHCR was established on 14 December 1950[13] and succeeded the earlier United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees (other than Palestinian refugees, who are assisted by UNRWA) and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

UNHCR's mandate has gradually been expanded to include protecting and providing humanitarian assistance to whom it describes as other persons "of concern", including internally displaced persons (IDPs) who would fit the legal definition of a refugee under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization for African Unity Convention, or some other treaty if they left their country, but who presently remain in their country of origin. UNHCR presently has major missions in Lebanon, South Sudan, Chad/Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kenya to assist and provide services to IDPs and refugees in camps and in urban settings.

UNHCR maintains a database of refugee information, ProGres, which was created during the Kosovo War in the 1990s. The database today contains data on over 11 million refugees, or about 11% of all displaced persons globally. The

database contains biometric data, including fingerprints and iris scans and is used to determine aid distribution for recipients. The results of using biometric verification have been successful. When introduced in Kenyan refugee camps of Kakuma and Dadaab in the year 2013, the UN World Food Programme was able to eliminate $1.4M in waste and fraud.[14]

To achieve its mandate, the UNHCR engages in activities both in the countries of interest and in countries with donors. This includes hosting "expert roundtables" to discuss issues of concern to the international refugee community.

Palestine refugee mandate

Palestinian refugees living in the areas of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are covered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Unlike UNHCR, UNRWA does not have a mandate to resettle Palestine refugees and has no authority to seek lasting durable solutions for refugees.[15]

Public awareness and future of refugees

UNHCR 50th anniversary. Stamp of Tajikistan, 2001.

Several new programs have recently been introduced to support and to heighten awareness of the issues faced by refugees around the world. These two new programs are a product of the benchmarks set out by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The UNHCR works in different regions of the world to raise awareness about the refugee crisis and the needs of these refugees.

Since 2009, the UNHCR acknowledged a large presence of migration and refugees in the Caribbean, where the refugee crisis remained largely unreported.[16] The issue stems from refugees who, instead of applying to the U.N., improperly search for asylum in the United States, ultimately failing to reach their destination and remaining in the Caribbean.[17] However, migrant laws in some of these nations lacked any protections for asylum seekers, including the ability to be recognized as such.[16] In response, the UNHCR organized talks with these nations in Costa Rica in 2009,[17] seeking to address the lack of protections for refugees and their prosecution as unauthorized migrants.[16] A refugee seeker applies through the U.N. for placement, and an asylum seeker applies within the Country in which asylum is sought. This is why some Countries label refugees as illegal when they did not apply through the U.N. for placement and entered the country unlawfully.

In 2007, UNHCR offices in Canada launched an aggressive media campaign to shed light on the plight of refugees.[18] This campaign was meant to humanize the refugee crisis by showing refugees living in the midst of disturbing conditions. Using emotional appeals to raise public awareness, the campaign hoped to increase the interest of particularly "30 to 45-year-old professionals who are generally well educated, well-read, but have not had direct experience or knowledge of refugee issues",[18] according to fund-raising officer Jonathan Wade.

In Ireland, the UNHCR works to inform the public through different channels. The UNHCR in Ireland actively pursues media relations.[19] It also holds public events with the aim of informing people about current refugee crises. One of these is the annual UNHCR/SARI Fair play Football Cup.[19]

The UNHCR was prominent in helping Syrian refugees in Lebanon. When the Lebanese government was unable to withstand the influx of refugees, the UNHCR stepped in and eased the displacement for the refugees mainly by offering food and healthcare. They also helped register the refugees, so they would not be considered illegal in the eyes of the Lebanese government. Many Syrian refugees are also in Jordan.

Cooperation within the United Nations

As UNHCR is a programme governed by the UN General Assembly and the UN Economic and Social Council, it cooperates with many other programs and agencies under the United Nations in order to effectively protect the rights of refugees.

On 19 September 2016, the UN General Assembly hosted the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, a high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach.[20] Leaders of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and the World Bank were present. The summit addressed the root causes and drive for migration and the necessity of global cooperation. As a result of this summit, the United Nations unveiled a draft set of principles that urge the international community to build on the momentum set by the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016).[21][22] Specifically, the 20 draft principles focus on human rights; non-discrimination; rescue and assistance; access to justice; border governance; returns; violence; detention; family unity; child migrants; women migrants; right to health; adequate standard of living; decent work; right to education; right to information; monitoring and accountability; migrants' human rights defenders; data; and international cooperation.[23] The declaration set off a process leading to the negotiation of the Global Compact for Migration.

On 28 September 2016, the UNHCR partnered with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Tehran for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees. FAO highlighted the contributions to be made by FAO towards SSAR objectives on livelihood related activities including livestock and fishery initiatives as well as nutritional projects in Iranian schools.

FAO and UNHCR are committed to increasing refugees' access to livelihood opportunities and reducing dependency on humanitarian aid. Of late, a joint livelihood strategy for South Sudan was launched, looking to address this issue with a clearly defined action plan. The strategy targets both refugees (70%) and local communities (30%) in refugee-hosting areas across the country.[24]

Aid transparency

UNHCR regularly publishes to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) using the identifier XM-DAC-41121.[25] Publication started in 2018, but data is available from 2016 onwards aligning to the Grand Bargain (humanitarian reform). The organisation was assessed by Publish What You Fund and included in the 2024 Aid Transparency Index[26] with an overall score of 63.4 which is categorised as a "good" score.

Awards

Since 1954, the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award has been annually awarded to a person or an organization in recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.

The UNHCR itself was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1981. The UNHCR was awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize in 2015.

In 1991 was awarded the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation.[27]

Refugee camp in Darfur (Chad)

A helicopter arrives at a refugee facility in Macedonia with an underslung load of aid.

Trucks loaded with supplies drive across the border from Turkey into Iraq to take part in Operation Provide Comfort, a multinational effort to aid Kurdish refugees.

An UNHCR-officer talks with a Marine during Exercise Eager Lion 12.

Workers from the UNHCR, and CARE International gather bundles of shelters and mosquito nets in Kenya.

Heavily fortified UNHCR offices in Somaliland

A UNHCR refugee camp at Baharka, Iraq

UNHCR Camp, Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) June 2014

UNHCR Camp, Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) June 2014

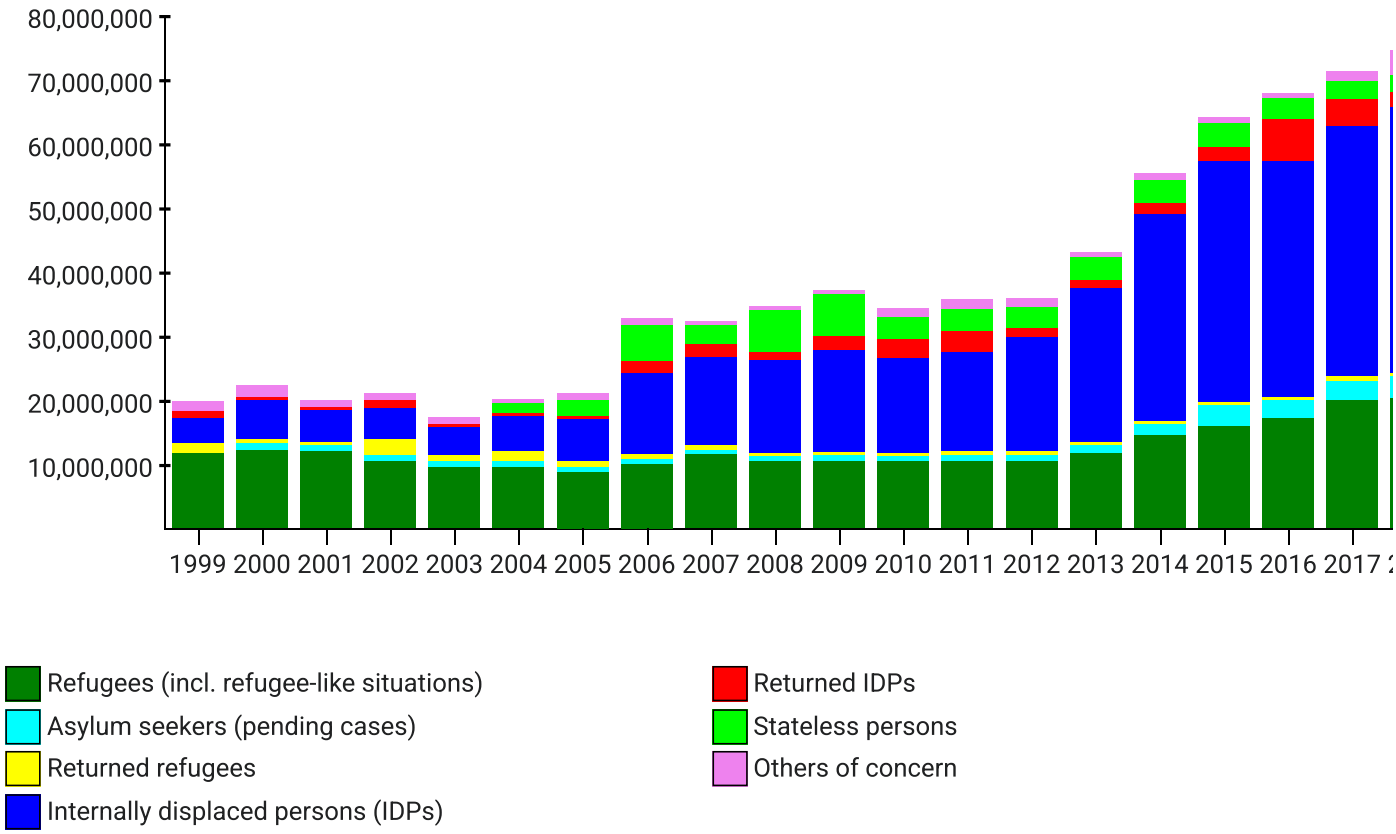
Inside the refugee camps of Northern Iraq

Persons of concern to UNHCR

Persons of concern include refugees and asylum seekers, people in refugee-like conditions, internally displaced people (IDPs), stateless persons and "others of concern to the UNHCR".

The UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends report of June 2015 (based on information for mid-2015 or latest available information up to that date) reported an "unprecedented" 57,959,702 individuals falling under its mandate (for reference, on 1 January 2007, 21,018,589 people – or less than half of the number in 2015 – fell under the mandate of the UNHCR). The sharp increase was mainly attributed to the Syrian Civil War, "with the outbreak of armed crises or the deterioration of ongoing ones in countries like Afghanistan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and the Ukraine contributing to prevailing trends".[28]

2019



2023's Global Trends report states that 43.4 million refugees fell under the organization's mandate, with 73 percent of refugees originating from just five countries: Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.[29]

Aerial view of Zaatari refugee camp for Syrian refugees in Jordan, July 2013

Prior data on forced migration organized by georegion included a report by the organization in 2015. It lists:

- 16,796,426 in the Middle East and North Africa, of which
  - 2,941,121 are refugees
  - 64,166 are in refugee-like situations
  - 109,847 have pending asylum cases
  - 374,309 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state")
  - 13,297,101 are IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR
- 9,694,535 in the Asia and Pacific bureau, of which
  - 3,506,644 are refugees
  - 278,350 are in refugee-like situations
  - 133,894 have pending asylum cases
  - 1,801,802 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state")

    - 2,965,211 are IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR
- 8,451,275 in East and Horn of Africa, of which
    - 2,713,748 are refugees
    - 33,553 are in refugee-like situations
    - 108,016 have pending asylum cases
    - 233,726 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state"
    - 5,119,463 are IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR
- 7,726,594 in the Americas, of which
    - 501,049 are refugees
    - 251,888 are in refugee-like situations
    - 276,394 have pending asylum cases
    - 136,413 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state")
    - 6,520,270 are IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR
- 7,585,581 in Europe, of which
    - 3,506,644 are refugees
    - 14,261 are in refugee-like situations
    - 827,374 are asylum seekers
    - 610,532 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state")
    - 2,574,886 are IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR
- 3,580,181 in Central Africa–Great Lakes, of which
    - 865,112 are refugees
    - 13,741 are in refugee-like situations
    - 18,623 have pending asylum cases
    - 1,302 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state"
    - 2,021,269 are IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR
- 2,754,893 in Western Africa of which
    - 258,893 are refugees
    - (Information not applicable/unavailable) on number in refugee-like situations
    - 9,298 have pending asylum cases
    - 700,116 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state")
    - 1,549,516 are IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR
- 1,370,217 in Southern Africa, of which
    - 179,837 are refugees
    - (Information not applicable/unavailable) on number in refugee-like situations
    - 860,500 have pending asylum cases
    - 300,000 are stateless ("persons not considered as nationals by any state")
    - (Information not applicable/unavailable) on number of IDPs or people in IDP-like situations assisted by the UNHCR

Staffing

As of 2023, the UNHCR has employed more than 18,879 staff in 138 countries.[30]

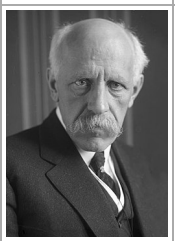
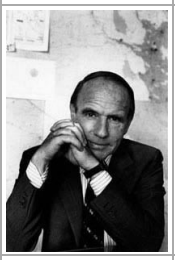
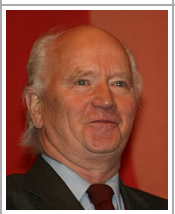
High Commissioners

The UN General Assembly elects High Commissioners every five years. High Commissioners are supported by the "Executive Committee to the High Commissioner's Programme", and he or she has to make annual reports to the UN General Assembly and needs to follow their directives.[31] The current High Commissioner is Filippo Grandi, who has held the post since 1 January 2016.[32] Prior to the establishment of the UNHCR, Fridtjof Nansen was the League's High Commissioner for Refugees. The post of High Commissioner has been held by:[33]

High Commissioner of the UNHCR

Incumbent
Filippo Grandi
since January 2016

High Commissioner for Refugees	
Reports to	UN General Assembly
Appointer	UN General Assembly
Term length	5 years
Formation	1 January 1951
First holder	Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart
Website	Official website (https://www.unhcr.org/the-high-commissioner.html)

No.	Portrait	High Commissioner	Took office	Left office	Time in office	Nationality
0		**Fridtjof Nansen** (1861–1930) League of Nations High Commissioner	1 September 1921	1927	4–5 years	Norway
1		**Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart** (1901–1956)	1 January 1951	8 July 1956	5 years, 189 days	Netherlands
2		**August R. Lindt** (1905–2000)	8 July 1956	3 November 1960	4 years, 118 days	Switzerland
3		**Félix Schnyder** (1910–1992)	3 November 1960	31 December 1965	5 years, 58 days	Switzerland
4		**Sadruddin Aga Khan** (1933–2003)	1 January 1966	31 December 1977	11 years, 364 days	Iran
5		**Poul Hartling** (1914–2000)	1 January 1978	31 December 1985	7 years, 364 days	Denmark
6		**Jean-Pierre Hocké** (born 1938)	1 January 1986	31 December 1989	3 years, 364 days	Switzerland
7		**Thorvald Stoltenberg** (1931–2018)	1 January 1990	3 November 1990	306 days	Norway
8		**Sadako Ogata** (1927–2019)	3 November 1990	31 December 2000	10 years, 59 days	Japan
9		**Ruud Lubbers** (1939–2018) (Resigned due to internal investigation)	1 January 2001	20 February 2005	4 years, 50 days	Netherlands

No.	Portrait	High Commissioner	Took office	Left office	Time in office	Nationality
–		**Wendy Chamberlin** (born 1948) *Acting*	24 February 2005	2 June 2005	98 days	United States
10		**António Guterres** (born 1949)	2 June 2005	31 December 2015	10 years, 212 days	Portugal
11		**Filippo Grandi** (born 1957)	1 January 2016	*Incumbent*	9 years, 191 days	Italy

Special Envoy of High Commissioner Filippo Grandi

- Angelina Jolie

After 10 years serving as a Goodwill Ambassador, Angelina Jolie was promoted in 2012 to Special Envoy to the High Commissioner. In this role she represents the UNHCR and High Commissioner Filipo Grandi at the diplomatic level and works to facilitate long-term solutions for people displaced by large-scale crises, such as Afghanistan and Somalia. "This is an exceptional position reflecting an exceptional role she has played for us", said a UNHCR spokesman.

Goodwill ambassadors

UNHCR is also represented by a number of UNHCR Goodwill Ambassadors, who at present are:

- Barbara Hendricks (Honorary Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador)
- Cate Blanchett
- David Morrissey
- Neil Gaiman
- Yao Chen
- Julien Clerc
- George Dalaras
- Alessandro Gassman
- Khaled Hosseini
- Kristin Davis
- Adel Emam
- Ger Duany
- Rokia Traore
- Osvaldo Laport
- Jesús Vázquez

- Alek Wek
- Jung Woo-sung
- Praya Lundberg
- John Abraham
- Yusra Mardini
- Sheikha Rima al-Sabah
- Iskui Abalyan
- Atom Araullo
- Alphonso Davies
- Tahsan Rahman Khan

Previous ambassadors include:

- Muazzez Ersoy
- Richard Burton
- Nazia Hassan
- James Mason
- Sophia Loren

Controversies

The 1994–1995 repatriation of Rohingyans

According to some scholars, with time UNHCR left an initial preference for asylum and resettlement policies, tending to prefer repatriation measures of refugees instead. Sometimes, this might have led the agency's bureaucratic apparatus to adopt pathological behaviours.[34]

An example of the latter, according to Barnett and Finnemore, was the handling of the 1995 Rohingyan crisis. At the time, thousands of Rohingyans were fleeing Burma (or Myanmar), seeking shelter in UNHCR camps in Bangladesh. According to some, UNHCR has been decisive in promoting the repatriation of refugees, although Non-Governmental Organizations on the field and the UN were skeptical about better political and security conditions in Burma.[35]

Also, controversies arose on the methods with which the UNHCR staff was conducting surveys in the camps to establish whether refugees were willing to move back to Burma or not.[35]

Regime complexity

A paper published in the International Migration review puts forward the point that since the organization's creation in 1951, overlapping and competing organizations have been created. The paper highlights that this creates opportunities in the form of inter-organization cooperation, but also challenges in that most of the UNHCR's original role becomes offloaded onto other agencies.[36]

Uyghur refugees

In 2024, UNHCR was criticized for being unable or willing to intervene in refugee cases involving Uyghurs.[37]

Stateless people

Despite UNHCR being known as an international lead on addressing statelessness, the organization's work with stateless people remains limited. According to UNHCR's own evaluation report from 2021, "the only dedicated training on statelessness within UNHCR is an online self-study module that was developed in 2012 (now out of date) which has been complemented by other ad hoc external training. This patchwork of training and learning support may not be able to ensure growing demands for capacity, and inadequately target staff in different functions and at different levels of responsibility within the organization."[38] According to the same report, UNHCR remains risk-averse in advocating for stateless people, and the organization's communications on statelessness remains poor "due to lack of staff familiarity, perceived complexity of statelessness issues, and staff not having direct contact with stateless populations to help develop a better understanding of their situation."[39]

See also

- *Against All Odds* (video game)
- Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund, a scholarship program for refugees administered by UNHCR
- Dadaab
- Nansen International Office for Refugees
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representation in India
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representation in Cyprus
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UniRef

References

Citations

1. "PERSONNEL BY ORGANIZATION | United Nations - CEB" (https://unsceb.org/hr-organization) .
2. "Figures at a Glance" (https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html) . *UNHCR*. Retrieved 13 November 2024.
3. "History of UNHCR" (https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/history-unhcr) . *UNHCR*. 2 September 1945. Retrieved 18 October 2024.
4. "History of UNHCR" (https://www.unhcr.org/history-of-unhcr.html) . *UNHCR*. 2 September 1945. Retrieved 18 August 2020.
5. "Expenditure by Agency" (https://web.archive.org/web/20201117201902/https://www.unsceb.org/content/FS-F00-03?gyear=2018) . Archived from the original (https://www.unsceb.org/content/FS-F00-03?gyear=2018) on 17 November 2020. Retrieved 18 August 2020.
6. "Donors" (https://www.unhcr.org/donors.html) . *UNHCR*. Retrieved 18 August 2020.
7. "Advocacy" (https://www.unhcr.org/advocacy.html) . *UNHCR*. Retrieved 18 August 2020.
8. "Nobel Laureates Facts – Organizations" (http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/lists/organizations.html) . Nobel Foundation. Retrieved 13 October 2009.
9. UNDG Members (http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=13) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20110511144047/http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=13) 11 May 2011 at the Wayback Machine. Undg.org. Retrieved on 2013-07-12.

10. Refworld | Self-Study Module 1: An Introduction to International Protection. Protecting Persons of Concern to UNHCR (http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4214cb4f2.html) . Unhcr.org (1 August 2005). Retrieved on 2013-07-12.
11. "Countdown to Human Rights Day" (http://www.ohchr.org/EN) . Retrieved 11 August 2023.
12. Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur; Patz, Ronny; Goetz, Klaus H. (2021). "Mandate or Donors? Explaining the UNHCR's Country-Level Expenditures from 1967 to 2016" (https://doi.org/10.1177/0032321720974330) . *Political Studies*. **70** (2): 443–464. doi:10.1177/0032321720974330 (https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0032321720974330) . ISSN 0032-3217 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0032-3217) . S2CID 234025149 (https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:234025149) .
13. "History of UNHCR: A global humanitarian organization of humble origins" (http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646cbc.html) . *UNHCR*. Retrieved 1 November 2009.
14. "Phones are now indispensable for refugees" (https://www.economist.com/news/international/21716637-technology-has-made-migrating-europe-easier-over-time-it-will-also-make-migration) . *The Economist*. Retrieved 20 February 2017.
15. The main difference between UNHCR and UNRWA (https://www.unhcr.org/news/speeches-and-statements/high-commissioner-s-statement-united-nations-security-council) . Retrieved 8 November 2023.
16. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "UNHCR and Caribbean partners work to raise awareness of "invisible" refugees" (http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2011/2/4d5d27676/unhcr-caribbean-partners-work-raise-awareness-invisible-refugees.html) . *UNHCR*. Retrieved 16 November 2016.
17. "UNHCR discuss plight of refugees in Caribbean" (http://ftp.jamaicagleaner.com/power/14496) . *ftp.jamaicagleaner.com*. 19 November 2009. Retrieved 16 November 2016.
18. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Canadian-made refugee awareness campaign aims to shock" (http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2007/5/464884684/canadian-made-refugee-awareness-campaign-aims-shock.html) . *UNHCR*. Retrieved 16 November 2016.
19. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Building Awareness" (https://web.archive.org/web/20161215093511/http://www.unhcr.ie/our-work-in-ireland/building-awareness) . *www.unhcr.ie*. Archived from the original (http://www.unhcr.ie/our-work-in-ireland/building-awareness) on 15 December 2016. Retrieved 16 November 2016.
20. "Summit for Refugees and Migrants – 19 September 2016" (http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/summit) . 12 December 2014. Retrieved 29 September 2016.
21. "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants" (http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/1) . *un.org*. UN. Retrieved 8 November 2018.
22. "New York Declaration" (https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration) . *un.org*. UN. 15 September 2016. Retrieved 8 November 2018.
23. United Nations News Service Section (20 September 2016). "UN official unveils draft principles on protecting human rights of refugees and migrants" (https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54978#.V-xRGvCLQ2w) . *UN News Service Section*. Retrieved 29 September 2016.
24. "UNHCR and FAO help vulnerable refugees and South Sudanese families strengthen their food security" (https://web.archive.org/web/20161002043235/http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/417501/) . *www.fao.org*. Archived from the original (http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/417501/) on 2 October 2016. Retrieved 29 September 2016.
25. "Publishers / United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)" (https://iatiregistry.org/publisher/unhcr) . *IATI Registry*. Retrieved 11 September 2024.
26. "2024 Index - Publish What You Fund" (https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/the-index/2024/) . *2024 Aid Transparency Index*. Retrieved 11 September 2024.

27. "UNHCR (United Nations High Comissioner [sic] for Refugees) – Laureates – Princess of Asturias Awards – The Princess of Asturias Foundation" (https://web.archive.org/web/20230419031421/https://www.fpa.es/en/princess-of-asturias-awards/laureates/1991-unhcr-united-nations-high-comissioner-for-refugees.html?especifica=0) . *The Princess of Asturias Foundation*. Archived from the original (http://www.fpa.es/en/princess-of-asturias-awards/laureates/1991-unhcr-united-nations-high-comissioner-for-refugees.html?especifica=0) on 19 April 2023. Retrieved 21 October 2018.
28. Refugees, United Nations High Commissioner for. "Mid-Year Trends, June 2015" (http://www.unhcr.org/56701b969.html) . *UNHCR*. Retrieved 27 February 2016.
29. UNHCR. 2023. *Global Trends. https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2023* .
30. "Figures at a Glance" (https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html) . UNHCR. Retrieved 26 March 2019.
31. *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook* (http://www.unhcr.org/46f7c0ee2.pdf) (PDF). p. 12. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20141003162636/http://www.unhcr.org/46f7c0ee2.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 3 October 2014.
32. "UN appoints Filippo Grandi as next high commissioner for refugees" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/12/un-appoints-filippo-grandi-as-next-high-commissioner-for-refugees) . *The Guardian*. London. 12 November 2015. Retrieved 27 November 2015.
33. "UNHCR Ehemalige FlüchtlingshochkommissarInnen" (http://www.unhcr.ch/unhcr/fluechtlingshochkommissar/ehem-hochkommissarinnen.html) . Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150529155928/http://www.unhcr.ch/unhcr/fluechtlingshochkommissar/ehem-hochkommissarinnen.html) 29 May 2015 at the Wayback Machine. Retrieved 15 May 2015.
34. Barnett, Michael; Finnemore, Martha (2004). *Rules for the world* (https://archive.org/details/rulesforworldint00barn) . Cornell University Press. pp. 73 (https://archive.org/details/rulesforworldint00barn/page/n40) – 104.
35. Barnett, Michael; Finnemore, Martha (2004). *Rules for the world* (https://archive.org/details/rulesforworldint00barn) . Cornell University Press. pp. 105 (https://archive.org/details/rulesforworldint00barn/page/n56) – 120.
36. Adelman, Howard (2001). "From Refugees to Forced Migration: The UNHCR and Human Security" (https://www.jstor.org/stable/2676049) . *The International Migration Review*. **35** (1): 7–32. doi:10.1111/j.1747-7379.2001.tb00002.x (https://doi.org/10.1111%2Fj.1747-7379.2001.tb00002.x) . hdl:10315/6726 (https://hdl.handle.net/10315%2F6726) . ISSN 0197-9183 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0197-9183) . JSTOR 2676049 (https://www.jstor.org/stable/2676049) .
37. Mahtani, Shibani (12 December 2024). "A Uyghur man escaped China's Xinjiang. Cambodia deported him back" (https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2024/china-uyghur-muslim-genocide-cambodia-deportation/) . *The Washington Post*. Archived (https://archive.today/20241214105648/https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2024/china-uyghur-muslim-genocide-cambodia-deportation/) from the original on 14 December 2024. Retrieved 15 December 2024.
38. UNHCR (May 2021) 'Evaluation of UNHCR-led Initiatives to End Statelessness' https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/60f18fcd4.pdf
39. *Ibid.*

Sources

- Janmyr, Maja. 2016. “Precarity in Exile: The Legal Status of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon”. Refugee Survey Quarterly, no. 35 (November): 58–78.
- Gil Loescher, Alexander Betts and James Milner. *UNHCR: The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection into the Twenty-First Century*, Routledge. 2008.
- Alexander Betts. *Protection by Persuasion: International Cooperation in the Refugee Regime*, Cornell University Press. 2009.
- Gil Loescher. *The UNHCR and World Politics: A Perilous Path*. Oxford University Press. 2002

- Fiona Terry. *Condemned to Repeat? The Paradox of Humanitarian Action*. Cornell University Press. 2002.
- Nicholas Steiner. *Problems of Protection.* Routledge. 2003.

External links

- Official website (https://www.unhcr.org/)
- UNHCR's "Refworld" refugee document and news web site (http://www.refworld.org) : from UNHCR's Status Determination and Protection Information Section (SDPIS) in the Division of International Protection Services (DIPS).
- "Figures at a Glance" from official website (https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/figures-glance)
- Measuring Protection by Numbers, Report from official website (https://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/4579701b2.pdf)
- Who is a Refugee and who is not - the Crisis of Identity as a Challenge to Protection (https://www.unhcr.org/publications/who-refugee-and-who-not-crisis-identity-challenge-protection) Online video of an address by Erika Feller, director, Department of International Protection, UNHCR, in 2005
- "U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20070814193807/http://www.refugees.org/article.aspx?id=1109&rid=1179) . *USCRI's Campaign to End Refugee Warehousing*. Archived from the original (http://www.refugees.org/article.aspx?id=1109&rid=1179) on 14 August 2007. Retrieved 28 May 2024.
- "Prisons of the Stateless: The Derelictions of UNHCR" (https://newleftreview.org/issues/ii42/articles/jacob-stevens-prisons-of-the-stateless) by Jacob Stevens
- Nine Million (https://web.archive.org/web/20070323161515/http://ninemillion.org/) (Archived 23 March 2007)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (https://www.nobelprize.org/laureate/515) on Nobelprize.org
- Global Compact on Refugees